

Minutes

Teacher Advisory Council

Indiana Milken Educator Network

The Children's Museum

March 19, 2005



- I. At 9:00 am Mark Weaver welcomed us to the Teacher Advisory Council meeting. Rick Crosslin welcomed the educators to the Children's Museum and gave an in depth tour of Dinosphere. He also shared with the council members dinosaur kits and thanked the Department of Education for the money providing teachers with this wonderful kit valued at over \$400.00. Rick shared more materials from the Children's Museum and also an update on his work with professional development with teachers in his role at the museum.



Rick Crosslin welcomes group and interests them in dinosaur bones

- II. Dr. Reed welcomed the Teacher Advisory Council and thanked the teachers present for their time.
- III. Dr. Reed stated we need to work hard to get our colleagues excited about teaching science. She encouraged us to assist teachers with teaching science in new ways that engage and challenge students. She also shared that the TIMMS for Indiana were above the national/international average for fourth graders (2nd in world).



Dr. Suellen Reed encourages discussions

- IV. Recent ISTEP scores and statewide testing was shared in a press release to us. Dr. Reed led a discussion on parent involvement in schools and shared that a matrix to measure parent involvement has been developed. Dr. Reed was able to observe a high school robot competition held at Purdue University and shared her learning about students from this experience. A lack of money for schools was also on the mind of the council members as well as moving ISTEP testing to the spring. Dr. Reed shared the push to have more technology at students' desktops so testing and the results of those tests could be returned to schools quicker. A computer pilot program is being done in schools now and showing great results. Dr. Reed gave a brief update on legislative agenda items and encouraged us to share our thoughts with DOE legislator liaison, Scott Minier later in the day. It was reinforced to the council by Dr. Reed "that we need to serve our children well". When asked what teachers could do to assist Dr. Reed the following was suggested: Talk to elected politicians; go to meetings held by the legislators; know educational bills, funding sources, and respond to legislators by writing letters and sending emails. An update and discussion on current issues in education followed till lunch at noon.
- V. Dr. Reed was thanked for her work for all students and presented a framed piece of art from the Very Special Arts of Indiana. A student with autism made this painting and his research on the painting as well as information about the program was included.



Dr Reed with painting

VI. Scott Minier, Legislative Liaison and Policy Analyst gave a PowerPoint presentation and handouts to update the council on educational issues in the legislation. He encouraged us to contact our legislators to share concerns and thoughts about bills and welcomed our presence in open committee meetings. Key bills were noted to the group and the following website was shared to watch the variety of bills' progress: <http://www.doe.state.in.us/legwatch/> The budget bill is titled HB 1001, ISTEP testing in spring is HB 1134, and SB 397 is a bill that many educational issues may be attached. Scott's contact information is 317-232-6671 sminier@doe.state.in.us

VII. Indiana Milken Meeting followed with Milken Educators. The following items were discussed:

1. Fall/Spring Meeting dates are being cleared with Dr. Reed's schedule. Suggested dates for fall are Sept. 10th with Sept. 17th as a second choice at the department of education offices. Spring meeting is being scheduled for the Children's Museum the end of February. Discussion was had on meeting during the school day or weekend. Those not in attendance are encouraged to share their thoughts to Theresa Knipstein Meyer at tknipstein@msn.com
2. Fall agenda items are being gathered to Mark Weaver for this meeting. Suggested items: Reviewing bylaws and elections, presentation by Mark Weaver on analyzing data and processing school reform data, Dr. Foley's end of October visit, Dr. Jetta Tarr presentation on teacher quality information, and legislative update by Matt Walsh.
3. Matt Walsh was designated to be legislative liaison for the Indiana Milken educators to Scott Minier.
4. Contacting our local legislators was again encouraged. Thanking them for their work for education and being a resource as needed to them.
5. Discussion was had on mentors for our new Milken educators and the best way to pair up new Milken teachers to mentors.
6. April 26-29, 2005 Milken Family Foundation 2005 National Education Conference will be held in Washington. DC The theme this year is "Early Childhood through Higher Education: Reforms That Work" Indiana is being represented by Rick Crosslin presenting on science with community culture/museums and Cathy Danyluk/Dr. Foley on state networks. 2004 Milken educators will be honored with the Milken Educator Award ceremony. Cathy asked for our feedback on her presentation.

7. If you have not done the Teacher Quality Survey presented by Dr. Jetta Tarr, please reconsider. Mark Weaver has a text version that he could like to send out by email. Mark Weaver would like to have the surveys back by April 28th, 2005. His email address is mweaver@doe.state.in.us
8. Brochure for network was reviewed and a stipend will be given for a local educator to finish this project. Presentation at the fall meeting is being planned.

****It is very important that we send our appreciation and encouragement to Dr. Reed at this time of year in letters, notes, or emails.**



Inside the skeleton



IMEN Meeting in progress



Theresa presents the picture



Dr. Suellen Reed, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Minutes respectfully submitted by Theresa Knipstein Meyer, photos by Mark Weaver